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CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

5 2. (amended) A gaming system comprising:

a plurality of gaming terminals which collect medals and the like
to execute a game and pays out prizes according to game results; and

a management device for a jackpot which is connected to these
plural gaming terminals to enable communication; wherein

10 a jackpot payout timing detection means for determining whether
or not jackpot payout is possible is comprised in the management device;

a notification means for notifying players that a special game will
be held when jackpot payout becomes possible is comprised in the
management device;

15 a special game execution means for executing a special game,
which is solely for the purpose of competing for the jackpot between a
plurality of gaming terminals, when the fact that jackpot payout is
possible is acknowledged through information from the management
device is comprised in each gaming terminal;

20 a jackpot payout destination determination means for
determining the gaming terminal to which the jackpot is paid out based
on the result of the special game transmitted from the gaming terminals
is comprised in the management device; and

a means for controlling each gaming terminal to continue
25 executing the special game until the jackpot is paid out is comprised in

the management device.

3. (amended) The gaming system according to claim 2, wherein
said management device comprises a jackpot accumulation means for
5 accumulating a portion of the medals and the like inserted in to said
gaming terminals as the jackpot and determines jackpot payout to be
possible by accumulating the jackpot to more than a certain amount.

4. The gaming system according to claim 3, wherein said
10 management device determines jackpot payout to be possible under the
condition that more than a certain number of gaming terminals must be
in play, in addition to accumulating a jackpot to more than a certain
amount.

15 5. (cancelled)

6. (amended) The gaming system according to claim 2, wherein
said notification means performs a countdown to the start of a special
game.

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7. (amended) The gaming system according to claim 2, wherein
said special game can be played only by gaming terminals which were in
play immediately prior to when jackpot payout became possible.

25 8. (amended) A management device, which collects medals and

the like to execute games, is connected to a plurality of gaming terminals which pay out prizes according to game results and manages a jackpot which is paid out to these gaming terminals, comprising:

a jackpot timing detection means for determining whether or not
5 jackpot payout is possible;

a notification means for notifying players that a special game will be held, when jackpot payout becomes possible;

an acknowledgement means for making the gaming terminals acknowledge that jackpot payout is possible;

10 a jackpot payout destination means for determining the gaming terminal to which the jackpot is paid out based on the results of the special game which held is solely for the purpose of competing for the jackpot in the plurality of gaming terminals when jackpot payout is determined to be possible; and

15 a means for controlling each gaming terminal to continue executing the special game until the jackpot is paid out.

9. (amended) A gaming terminal which collects medals and the like to execute games, pays out prizes according to game results, and is
20 connected in plural numbers to a management device which manages a jackpot to enable communication, comprising, when the fact that jackpot payout is possible is acknowledged through information from the management device:

a notification means for notifying players that a special game will
25 be held;

a special game execution means for executing a special game which is solely for the purpose of competing for the jackpot in the plurality of gaming terminals;

a means for transmitting the results of the special game to the management device; and

when instructions to continue executing the special game until the jackpot is paid out is received from the management device:

a means for continuing the execution of the special game.

10 10. (amended) A jackpot payout method wherein a plurality of gaming terminals which collects medals and the like to execute games and pays out prizes according to game results is connected to a jackpot management device to enable communication, and the jackpot managed by the management device is paid out to a gaming terminal, wherein the management device comprises:

a step for determining whether or not jackpot payout is possible;

a step for making the plurality of gaming terminals acknowledge that jackpot payout is possible;

a notification step for notifying players that a special game will be held, when the jackpot payout becomes possible;

a step for executing a special game which held is solely for the purpose of competing for the jackpot in a plurality of gaming terminals;

a step for determining the gaming terminal to which the jackpot is paid out by the management device based on the results of the special game; and

a step for controlling each gaming terminal to continue executing the special game until the jackpot is paid out.

11. (amended) A program for the purpose of enabling a computer
5 which is connected to a plurality of gaming terminals, which collects medals and the like to execute a game and pays out the jackpot based on the game results, to function as a management device for a jackpot which is paid out to these gaming terminals and enabling said computer to execute:
- 10 a step for determining whether or not jackpot payout is possible;
a notification step for notifying players that a special game will be held, when the jackpot payout becomes possible;
a step for making the plurality of gaming terminals acknowledge that jackpot payout is possible;
- 15 a step for determining the gaming terminal to which the jackpot is paid out based on the results of a special game which held is solely for the purpose of competing for the jackpot in a plurality of gaming terminals when jackpot payout is determined to be possible; and
a step for controlling the plurality of gaming terminal to continue
20 executing the special game until the jackpot is paid out.

12. (amended) A program for the purpose of enabling said computer to function as a game terminal, which is connected to a jackpot management device to enable communication and wherein a jackpot win
25 occurs, and enabling the computer to execute:

a step for acknowledging that jackpot payout is possible through information from the managing device;

a notification step for notifying players that a special game will be held, when the jackpot payout becomes possible;

5 a step for executing a special game for the sole purpose of jackpot competition in a state wherein jackpot payout is possible;

a step for transmitting the special game results to the management device; and

10 a step for continuing the execution of the special game when instructions to continue executing the special game until the jackpot is paid out is received from the management device.